[12th March 1959

Electrification of railways

* 741 *Q.*—SRI A. A. RASHEED : Will the Hon. the Minister for Home be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the statement made by the Deputy Minister for Railways that only Tambaram-Chingleput line would be electrified during the Second Five-Year Plan and that the question of electrification of Madras-Arkonam line would also be considered; and

(*b*) if so, whether this Government have any information as to when the electrification of Madras-Arkonam line will be taken up by the Central Government?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (*a*) Yes, Sir.

(*b*) No, Sir.

SRI A. A. RASHEED : Is the Hon. Minister aware that the Madras-Arkonam line is more frequently used than the Tambaram-Villupuram line? Will the Government recommend to the Union Government to give priority for this line?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : There need not be any competition between one line and another, between Broad Gauge and Metre Gauge. There is no question of priority as between the two since the Tambaram-Villupuram scheme has already been taken up for execution as has been announced by the Railway Minister in his Budget speech. A survey was undertaken some time ago to assess the traffic on the Broad Gauge between Madras and Arkonam and it was felt that there was not sufficient traffic to justify electrification. This Government urged that this scheme also should be taken up. The Government of India have now undertaken a new survey. We have also pointed out to them that certain new industries have sprung up between Madras and Avadi and Tiruvellore. A new survey is being undertaken now.

SRI A. A. RASHEED : May I know whether the Tambaram-Villupuram electrification scheme will be completed within the second Five-Year Plan period?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : I wuold invite the hon. Member's attention to the speech of the Railway Minister in Parliament.

Scholarships to students

* 742 *Q.*—SRI P. G. MANICKAM : கனம் பொது மராமத்து அமைச்சர் அவர்கள் தயவுசெய்து பதிலளிப்பாரா—

(அ) 1958–59–ம் வருஷத்துக்கு ஒதுக்கப்பட்ட (Residential scholarships) தொகையிலிருந்து காலேஜ்களிலும், உயர்நிலைப் பள்ளிக்கூடங்களிலும் படிக்கும் எத்தனை ஹரிஜன மாணவர்களுக்கும், மாணவிகளுக்கும் உபகாரச் சம்பளங்கள் வழங்கப்பட்டிருக்கின்றன?

(ஆ) இந்த உபகாரச் சம்பளங்களுக்குள் Fresh scholarships எத்தனை?